generally compatible with data communications cable applications, including any applicable fire safety standards.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 27 of page 5 as shown.

B3 Cont.

Greater cross-talk isolation is achieved in the construction of Fig. 3, by using a conductive shield 301, for example a metal braid, a solid metal foil shield or a conductive plastic layer in contact with the ends of the fins 303 of the core 101. Such a construction rivals individual shielding of twisted pairs for cross-talk isolation. This construction optionally can advantageously include a drain wire 601 in a central channel 107, as illustrated in Fig. 6. In the constructions of both Figs. 2 and 3 it is advantageous to have the fins 303 of the core 101 extend somewhat beyond a boundary defined by the outer dimension of the twisted pairs 103. In the construction of Fig. 2 this ensures that he twisted pairs 103 do not escape their respective channels 105 prior to the cable being jacketed, while in that of Fig. 3 and good contact between the fins 303 and the shield 301 is ensured. In both constructions, closing and jacketing the cable may bend the tips of the fins 303 over slightly, as shown in the core material is relatively soft, such as PVC.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 – 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

4. 28. (New) The cable as claimed in claim 2 20, wherein each of the fins is bent at a tip by the outer jacket.

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29. (New) The unshielded data cable of claim 20, wherein the central core comprising the plurality of fins is made of a fire resistant plastic.

6. 30. (New) The unshielded data cable of claim 2 20, wherein the plurality of channels are defined by the plurality of fins.